

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, RW, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA: RWANDAN FONMIN COMMENTS

1. IN AIRPORT INTERVIEW APRIL 16 (TEXT JUST RECEIVED) PRIOR DEPARTURE DAKAR ARAB-AFRICAN CONFERENCE, RWANDAN FONMIN RESPONDED TO RADIO RWANDA QUESTION ON SECRETARY'S TRIP IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

A. "... I ALWAYS TELL THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAT AFRICA IS A CONTINENT AND I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS MADE SEVERAL CRUISES TO THE MIDDLE EAST -- PERHAPS AS MANY AS THIRTY. AND AFRICA HAS REMAINED IGNORED. IT IS A GOOD THING FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT BECAUSE AFRICA CARRIES A GREAT WEIGHT IN CURRENT INT'L POLITICS.

B. "THE ONLY THING I WOULD SAY -- AND NOT IN A CRITICAL SENSE AS THERE ARE MANY IMPONDERABLES FOR A STATESMAN LIKE KISSINGER TO CONSIDER IN HIS PROGRAM -- IS THAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY A SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD VISIT ONLY THE GREAT POWERS OF AFRICA LIKE NIGERIA, ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE TOGO, BENIN, ETC., ALSO HAVE THEIR IMPORTANCE. I BELIEVE THAT IN HIS PROGRAM IT WOULD BE BEST TO MIX X SMALL COUNTRIES WITH X BIG COUNTRIES AS THE 'GRANDEUR' OF A COUNTRY IS JUDGED BY VARIOUS CRITERIA, FACTORS AND VALUES."

2. RECOMMENDATION - EMB SUGGESTS THAT THIS EXPRESSION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIRECT PIQUE IS PROBABLY SHARED BY AT LEAST SOME OTHER

SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IT MIGHT THUS BE POLITIC FOR
SOME APPROPRIATE PHRASEOLOGY ON THE VALUE OF SMALL AFRICAN
COUNTRIES TO BE INCLUDED IN ONE OR SEVERAL OF THE SECRETARY'S
PUBLIC STATEMENTS. FRITTS

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